

IN THE APPLICATION

of

DAVID CATANZARO

for a

or Article
TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

filed with

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Article
TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility
Application 08/777,032, filed on 12/30/96. ^{now patent 6,026,532}
The earlier
filing date of this application is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C 120.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

this application claim benefit to provisional application 60/009,323
12-28-95.

The instant invention relates generally to
toothbrushes, and more specifically it relates to a toothbrush
assembly which may contain a combination of appealing qualities
to a child, and thereby may promote a superior way to achieve
desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

Description of the Prior Art

a There are various advantages in storing ^{an article} a toothbrush in an upright position, and numerous patents have disclosed holders or stands for retaining ^{an article} a toothbrush in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. For instance, U.S. Pat. 5,444,889 (Barre) discloses a toothbrush assembly including a toothbrush and a stand for holding the brush. The stand includes a cup portion having a cavity within, wherein the brush handle can be inserted. A pair of legs separate and unattached to one another support and are connected to the cup portion. Further included is a foot for each leg, each foot being connected to the lower end of the leg opposite the cup portion. The feet are also separate and unattached from one another. U.S. Pat. Des. 369,932 and U.S. Pat. Des. 370,147 (Petronio) discloses a toothbrush holder in the shape of a torso having a front and rear portion. The front portion includes a recess extending therethrough, wherein a brush handle can be inserted. Further included, extending from the front portion, is a pair of feet which are separate and unattached from one another. A tail section extends from the rear portion. While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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A first object of the present invention is to provide ^{an article} a toothbrush assembly that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide ^{an article} a ~~toothbrush~~ ^{receivable} assembly, comprising ^{an article} a ~~toothbrush~~ having a first and second end, and ~~a bristle head being positioned on the first side of the first end, and a stand for retaining the brush in a vertical position~~ ^{article} when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

A third object is to provide ^{an article} a ~~toothbrush~~ ^{article} assembly, in which the stand is releasably connected to the ~~toothbrush~~ ^{receiving end} handle.

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A fourth object is to provide ^{an article} a ~~toothbrush~~ ^{receivable} assembly, in which the stand is a pair of feet which are positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface and a single heel portion, wherein the single heel portion includes a recess for selectively receiving the ~~second end of the~~ ^{article} toothbrush handle therein.

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A ninth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, that will improve motivational aspects, to encourage a child to easily assemble the parts of the toothbrush assembly together when not in use, so as to promote a superior way to achieve desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

A tenth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that will enforce a child who likes cartoon characters to utilize the hygienic values incorporated into the invention, instead of the stark and unattractive existing toothbrush systems.

An eleventh object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that is simple and easy to use.

A twelfth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that is economical in cost to manufacture.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the ^{appended}~~append~~-claims.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become more fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein;

FIGURE 1 is a front exploded perspective view of the ^{article} ~~toothbrush~~ assembly according to the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a front ^{exploded perspective} ~~perspective~~ view of the ^{article} ~~toothbrush~~ assembly ^{according to the present invention showing a base for the stand} ~~in Figure 1 assembled together.~~

FIGURE 3 is a front perspective view similar to Figure 2 broken away, showing a base for the stand.

FIGURE 4 is a front exploded perspective view of the toothbrush assembly according to the present invention showing a base for the stand.

FIGURE 5 is a front perspective view of the toothbrush assembly in Figure 4 assembled together.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With regard to ~~FIGURES 1 and 2~~, the embodiment of the invention drawn shows an ^{article} ~~elongated toothbrush handle 1~~ having a ^{receivable} ~~first end 2 a second end 3 and a first and second side.~~ A bristle head ~~4~~ is positioned on the ~~first side of first end 3.~~ A stand ~~5~~ is in the shape of first and second feet ~~6a and 6b.~~ Each first and second feet ~~6a and 6b,~~ are elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end. First and second feet ~~6a and 6b~~ are joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface. The heel end of each first and second feet ~~6a and 6b,~~ is positioned together to form a single heel portion 7. Single heel portion 7 includes a recess 8 extending through a top side thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving ^{receivable 2 article} ~~second end 3 of handle 1~~ therein, thereby retaining handle 1 in a vertical position when stand 5 is placed on a horizontal surface. First and second feet ~~6a and 6b~~ each include a side surface, the side surfaces intersect one another in a common plane. ^{the toe end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b extends in the same direction as bristle head 4.} ~~The heel end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b is substantially flush with the second side of handle 1.~~

If desired, a base 9 could be connected to a bottom side of stand 5 as shown in FIGURE 3. In FIGURES 4 and 5, base 9 ^{may include} ~~includes~~ a recess 10 extending therethrough and in alignment with recess 8 in stand 5 for additionally receiving ^{second} ~~second~~ end ² of handle 1 therein, to provide additional stability to handle 1 and stand 5.

In preferred form, handle 1 is in the shape of a torso 11 of animate object 12, conforming to the shape of first and second feet 5a and 6b, wherein first end 2 of handle 1 further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members 13a and 13b, having the shape of arms extending therefrom matching torso 11 of animate object 12. The second end 3 of handle 1 further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members 14a and 14b, having the shape of legs matching torso 11 of animate object 12.

A cover 16 is provided having the shape of a head 15, conforming to the shape of handle 1 of torso 11 of animate object 12, and feet 6a and 6b for selectively covering bristle head 4.

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While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.